



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Joint Convention Will Meet to Fill School Committee Vacancy

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Jon Mitchell announced today that eight individuals have formally expressed an interest in filling the current vacancy on the New Bedford School Committee created by Tom Clark's resignation in September 2012. The following individuals submitted an application to the Mayor as Chair of the Convention by the October 9th deadline:

- Kevin DaPonte
- Nancy Feeney
- Guillermo Gonzalez, M.D.
- Robert Massoud
- Maria Mojica
- Bruce Oliveira
- Ramona Silva
- Sarah Thomas

The joint convention of the New Bedford School Committee and City Council to elect a candidate to fill the current vacancy on the New Bedford School Committee will be held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Each applicant will have an opportunity at the meeting to present a five minute statement in support of his or her candidacy. At the conclusion of the candidates' statements, the joint convention will be open for nominations. The joint committee shall vote on nominees until a nominee has received a majority vote.

Mayor Mitchell, chairman ex officio of the School Committee said, "It is critical that School Committee have a full complement of members to address the pressing matters before it. And, I am committed to ensuring that this election is as transparent as possible and that ultimately we elect a candidate who will serve in the best interests of our city schools."

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 43, Section 36, provides that when a vacancy occurs on the School Committee, a "joint convention" comprised of the City

Council and the remaining members of the School Committee shall elect a suitable replacement to serve until the next regular municipal election. The statute further establishes that the mayor shall serve as the chair of the joint convention

Copies of the candidates' applications have been posted on the City of New Bedford website, www.newbedford-ma.gov. [Click here to view the list of candidates.](#)

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